

March 26, 2009

Susan Skalski, Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

RE: GCA – 08

Dear Supervisor Skalski:

Please accept this letter from the BlueRibbon Coalition, a national trail group, as indication of **support** for your 2008/09 Ground Operations Grant, Planning Grants, and Restoration Grants.

The Stanislaus National Forest's facilities and route networks are an important part of the state-wide destination OHV area matrix. BRC believes the size and scope of the grant package reflects the holistic nature of the agency's commitment to managed motorized recreation.

BRC believes the ground operations grant is important considering the complex nature of managing OHV recreation in an urban/rural Forest. BRC urges the Forest to use, where appropriate, rainfall-based closures vs. time-based seasonal closures particularly at designated OHV areas.


BRC believes the aforementioned restoration projects comply with both the spirit and intent of SB742's restoration grant language. BRC supports restoration grants that are part of a managed OHV program where legal motorized opportunities are provided for and enhanced in conjunction with restoration of routes that have been closed using the appropriate project-level NEPA process or by legislation.

BRC commends the Forest for its outreach to various stakeholders. Since permitted OHV events are an important element of your recreation program, BRC urges the agency to continue meeting with off-road clubs where topics related to permitted events are discussed, issues resolved, and solutions found.

BRC also urges the agency to continually review new scientific information, regulations, rulings, and directives that could allow for spring permitted OHV events to, once again, take place when soil conditions (i.e. moisture and less dust) are optimum.

BRC appreciates your commitment to managed OHV recreation and we thank your office for allowing us to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Don', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Don Amador
Western Representative
BlueRibbon Coalition, Inc.
555 Honey Lane
Oakley, CA 94561
Office: 925.625.6287
Email: brdon@sharetrails.org